

***IN THE CLAIMS***

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 are cancelled.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for encoding an image, comprising:

- identifying adjacent blocks in the image;
- identifying coding parameters for the adjacent blocks;
- skipping deblock filtering between the identified adjacent blocks when the coding parameters for the identified adjacent blocks are similar;
- deblock filtering between the identified adjacent blocks when the coding parameters for the identified adjacent blocks are not similar;
- identifying transform coefficients for the adjacent blocks;
- skipping deblock filtering between the adjacent blocks when the transform coefficients are similar;
- identifying D.C. components in the transform coefficients;
- skipping deblock filtering between the adjacent blocks when the D.C. components are the same or similar;
- identifying A.C. components in the transform coefficients; and
- skipping deblock filtering between the adjacent blocks when the D.C. and A.C. components are the same or similar.

Claims 6-16 are cancelled.

17. (Previously Presented) An encoder for encoding an image, comprising:

- a processor adapted to identify adjacent blocks in the input image;
- compare coding parameters for the adjacent blocks;
- enable and disable filtering of blocking artifacts between the adjacent blocks according to the comparisons;
- skip deblock filtering according to D.C. components in the residual coefficients; and
- skip deblock filtering according to D.C. and A.C. components in the residual coefficients.

18. (Previously Presented) An encoder for encoding an image, comprising:  
a processor adapted to identify adjacent blocks in the input image;  
compare coding parameters for the adjacent blocks;  
enable and disable filtering of blocking artifacts between the adjacent blocks according to the comparisons;  
compare blocks in the image with reference frames, transform the result of the comparison between the reference frames and the blocks into transformed blocks having transform coefficients, compare the transform coefficients and encoding parameters of adjacent blocks, and skip deblock filtering between adjacent blocks in the image according to the results of the comparison between the transform coefficients and encoding parameters.

19. (Original) An encoder according to claim 18 wherein the transform coefficients include D.C. transform components and the encoding parameters include motion vectors and reference frames.

Claims 20-23 are cancelled.

24. (Previously Presented) A decoder for decoding an encoded image, comprising:  
a processor adapted to identify adjacent blocks in the encoded image;  
identify coding parameters for the adjacent blocks;  
enable or disable filtering of blocking artifacts between the adjacent blocks according to the coding parameters for the adjacent blocks;  
identify residual coefficients for the adjacent blocks and skip deblock filtering between the adjacent blocks according to the identified residual coefficients;  
identify D.C. components in the residual coefficients and skip deblock filtering between the adjacent blocks according to the identified D.C. components; and  
identify similar A.C. components in the residual coefficients and skip deblock filtering between the identified adjacent according to the identified D.C. and A.C. components.

Claims 25-27 are cancelled.